LAW OFFICES OF RANDALL & LESER 712 KEYSER BUILDING BALTIMORE

June 5, 1928

Lawrence Hall Fowler, Esq. 347 North Charles Street Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Fowler:

You may not know of it but Governor Ritchie appointed a Commission about a year ago to consider and report to the coming General Assembly a scheme for the celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Founding of Maryland. That Commission has had a quiet existence until recently when its Executive Committee, composed of Richard M. Duvall, Chairman, Mrs. Edward Shoemaker, Miss Williams, De Coursy Thom, Dr. O'Donovan, M. Page Andrews and myself, began the formulation of a plan.

We each have our special object in view and mine, I do not mind saying, is the erection of a Memorial Hall of Provincial Records to form a member of the State group of buildings, and to be the future repository from every county in the State and the City of Baltimore of the priceless records that remain unburned and unstollen; in other words to take from the counties the more valuable remaining records, place them under the care of the State in a room which will bear a county emblem or distinctive decoration, and so preserve for all time what is now in jeopardy.

Dr. O'Donovan, I think, has in mind largely a symbolic figure, monument or shrine on the island in the Potomac River where the Colonists first set foot, while Mr. Duvall and Mr. Andrews are very much taken up with putting a more stately memorial at St. Marys City, the first permanent settlement. In my opinion the first of these should be a beacon or an illuminated cross, the second should be a stately landing leading up from the waters of the St. Marys River to the bank above whereon the first town was built; but these are mere suggestions.

At a meeting yesterday we had with us a member of the State Senate (Coad) and of the House (Marbury) who were named with others to consider the subject and the Senator who is a St. Marys man talked about a million dollar appropriation as needed for the buildings and memorial. After the legislators had gone, I proposed that a Committee be formed of yourself, a sculptor, and an engineer who should be invited by the Tercentenary Commission to help us in reaching a definite plan, but it did not prevail in that form. You were named as Chairman of a group of three, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Lee Taylor, who should be invited to meet with us and air your views on the subject. Unfortunately the Commis-